

Whipple Free Library

Safe Child Policy

The Whipple Free Library wants children under the age of 18 to find their library warm, inviting, enjoyable and secure. Children are welcome to use the facilities and services. However, library staff cannot provide childcare or assume responsibility for children's safety. Parents, guardians, teachers and caregivers are responsible for the behavior and safety of children visiting the library and participating in programs.

Purpose

Parents are reminded that the Whipple Free Library is a public space available for anyone to use. Because staff have many duties to perform in order to help all our patrons, they cannot monitor the whereabouts, safety, or behavior of children. Children must know how to reach an adult in case of an emergency, and both children and adults should be aware of library hours.

Policy

Accompanied Children

- Children aged 8-9: must have a parent or designated caregiver over the age of 13 remain in the library with them
- Children aged 5 to 7: must have a parent or caregiver in the library at all times, unless the child is participating in a library program. Parents or caregivers who do not attend the program with the child should remain in the building
- Children under age 5: must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times
- Because of our location, unless a teen has their own license and vehicle to leave the library, or prior arrangements have been made, they will not be left alone without an adult after closing

The library has public computers with internet access in the Adult and Teen areas that are not filtered. The computer in the children's room does not have access to the internet. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to supervise their children's use of the library's computers and the internet.

We understand that children are still learning and developing. We strive to encourage that. Children are expected to behave in a manner that is reasonably considered to be appropriate for a library setting, and not disruptive to others. (Please refer to the Library Users Conduct Policy.)

Unattended Children at Closing

If the library is closing, at a regular time, or in an emergency situation, and a parent or guardian of a child cannot be located in the building, library staff will make every effort to contact a parent or guardian. Within 15 minutes after closing, the New Boston Police Department will be called to assist with locating a parent or guardian if immediate contact cannot be made by that child or a Library staff member. Two staff members will stay with the child until assistance arrives. No staff member will transport any child from the library to another location.